(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. HIV is a very labile virus and is destroyed within 20-30 minutes in boiling water.

Sterilizing needle and syringes by boiling in health care settings is the simplest and most reliable method of killing disease causing organisms including HIV.

(c) Since 1988, the Govt. has issued from time to time, guidelines for prevention and control of HIV inection in health care settings. Recently, the guidelines have been revised and issued to all State/U. T. Govts. and Health care establishments.

Further, training and orientation programme for prevention and control of HIV infection in health care settings are being conducted since 1989 in different parts of the country.

The State Govts. have been requested to ensure that guidelines for prevention and control of HIV infection are followed in the health care settings.

Spreading of HIV by mosquitoes

1303. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mosquitoes can spread the HIV (AIDS) germs;

(b) whether Government have made any study and research in this regard; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) No. There is no documented evidence to show that HIV is being spread by mosquitoes.

(b) and (c) No study in this regard has been done in India, as studies have already been conducted in other countries, especially in U.S.A. which have revealed that HIV is not transmitted by mosquitoes. Moreover, epidemiological data on HIV clearly point to the fact that AIDS is not a mosquito-borne disease.

Expenditure on AIDS in India

1304. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the basis of the estimates made by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the number of AIDS infections in India;

(b) whether Government are aware that the cost of fighting AIDS including medical treatment and care would come to around $ 1.3 billion by the year 2000; and

(c) if so, whether Government would be able to spend such a huge amount to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) Estimates of the number of AIDS infection in India have been made by WHO on the basis of HIV positivity rates among the groups practising at high risk behaviour namely commercial sex workers (CSWs), clients of CSWs, blood donors and recipients and intravenous drug users. Full time hospital based care and treatment of HIV positive and AIDS patients with state of the art technology and medication against all possible opportunistic infections is an extremely expensive proposition. However, our strategy is family based and community based (as advocated by WHO) treatment and care for HIV and AIDS patients in